



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 September 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports the Federal Aviation Administration plans disciplinary action for air traffic controllers who nap during break time, overruling standing policy in at least one control center. (See item [15](#))
- PLoS Medicine reports understanding the role of airline travel in large-scale influenza spread is especially important; recent simulation studies have concluded that air travel restrictions might have a significant impact on the course of a pandemic. (See item [20](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 12, Scotsman (United Kingdom)* — **Robots hailed as safety solution.** Tiny robots developed by Scottish scientists are set to improve the safety of airplanes, nuclear power plants, and oil rigs. Measuring just under four inches square, the devices use ultrasound, electrical currents, magnetic fields, and cameras to inspect structures for cracks, corrosion and leaks. Each battery-powered robot uses its own computer to process data and locate defects. This information is sent to a central computer for analysis.
Source: <http://news.scotsman.com/scitech.cfm?id=1344342006>

2. *September 12, Energy Information Administration* — **Energy Information Association releases Short-Term Energy Outlook.** August began with a surge in oil prices, as BP Oil Company announced a reduction in oil production from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay. However, August ended with falling oil prices, led by the earlier-than-expected seasonal decline in gasoline prices. The average retail price of regular motor gasoline fell from \$3.04 per gallon on August 7, 2006, to \$2.62 per gallon on September 11, 2006, and is expected to fall to an average of \$2.55 per gallon in January 2007 before rising again into next summer. In 2006 and 2007, the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil spot price is projected to average around \$70 per barrel. Retail regular gasoline prices are projected to average about \$2.65 per gallon in both 2006 and 2007. Natural gas Henry Hub spot prices, which averaged about \$6.74 per thousand cubic feet (mcf) this summer, are projected to increase as demand for winter heating fuel grows. However, the expected 2006 average of \$7.51 per mcf for Henry Hub spot prices would be \$1.35 lower than the 2005 average. For 2007, the Henry Hub average price will likely move back up to an average of \$8.30 per mcf, assuming sustained high oil prices and normal weather.
Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo>
3. *September 11, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Cracking of blades in combustion turbines investigated.** The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) is investigating the failure of compressor blades on General Electric's (GE) 7FA and 9FA combustion turbines after several incidents of cracking in the first row of blades, EPRI said in a notice on its Website. The cracking has been known to occur for some time, but EPRI's investigation is designed to find the root cause of the problem by working with utilities that own some of the units. In EPRI's notice of measurement and investigation, the organization said GE has sent letters to unit owners recommending frequent inspections and regular polishing of turbine blades to mitigate any erosion. Other efforts also have been proposed, but "turbine operators have expressed concerns that the problem has not been mitigated by the measures used to date," EPRI said.
Source: <http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/7705793.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>
4. *September 10, Boston Globe* — **Abandoned truck spurs security alert at LNG site.** An abandoned rental truck left running outside the gates of the Distrigas LNG terminal in Everett, MA, the night of Saturday, September 9, triggered a massive response from local and State Police. Security staff at the liquefied natural gas facility (LNG) found a Budget truck with its engine running parked in a "suspicious spot" within an area of high security around 9:00 p.m. EDT and called authorities, said Everett's mayor, John Hanlon, at the site Saturday night. Shortly before 11:00 p.m., police determined there was no threat and that the truck, which had a popped ignition, had been stolen.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/09/10/abandoned_truck_spurs_security_alert_at_lng_site/
5. *September 09, Calgary Sun (Canada)* — **Canadian government increases nuclear security.** The Canadian federal government is imposing tough regulations for Canada's nuclear facilities to fend off a future terrorist attack. The safety regime set out by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, published this week, includes an on-site "armed response force," intensified screening for employees and contractors, and stronger physical protections against "forced vehicle penetration." Many emergency security measures were ordered for high-risk nuclear

facilities in the wake of 9/11, but the regulations make requirements permanent and add new steps to align Canada with international practices. Changes include a requirement for "dual intrusion detection" and a round-the-clock armed security force for nuclear power plants and the laboratory at Chalk River, Ontario.

Source: <http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/National/2006/09/09/1818024-sun.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *September 11, CBS 2 (CA)* — **Ammonia leak prompts evacuations.** A man was recuperating Monday, September 11, from shortness of breath after fire crews discovered corroded pipes in a Coachella, CA, business leaking hazardous quantities of ammonia. Riverside County Fire officials received word of the leak at 4:01 p.m. PDT Sunday, September 10, in the 52000 block of Enterprise, and promptly evacuated the surrounding three-fourths of a mile as a precaution. A Hazmat team determined the source of the leak was a 3,000-gallon container of anhydrous ammonia.

Source: http://cbs2.com/local/local_story_254120033.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *September 12, Reuters* — **U.S. aims to kick off air tanker bidding by end-September.** The U.S. Air Force plans to kick off a new \$20 billion-plus competition for air refueling tankers by the end of September, with an eye to picking a winner by the summer of 2007, Air Force Secretary Michael said on Tuesday, September 12. The Air Force has taken pains to carefully review the tanker competition after a similar one five years ago ran aground amid the conviction of a former senior Air Force official and a top Boeing Co. executive for conflict of interest violations. Another lingering issue is the so-called Berry Amendment, which requires specialty metals like titanium used in weapons programs to be U.S.-produced. That could exempt an international bidder from a NATO country.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060912/arms_tanker.html?.v=1

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *September 12, Agence France-Presse* — **Yahoo aims to protect Website users from scams.** Yahoo launched a sign-in service that allowed users of the search engine to create custom seals to thwart scammers out to trick them by imitating the search engine's pages. The security feature was aimed at exposing "phishing" cons in which people are duped into entering log-in or other information on bogus Websites that resemble legitimate Web pages, according to Yahoo. Yahoo users were given the option of creating a "sign-in seal" consisting of a secret message or image to be remembered on their computer and then displayed when they go to Yahoo log-in pages for services such as e-mail.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060912/tc_afp/afplifestyleusin_ternetcrimecompanyyahoo

9. *September 12, Associated Press* — **Progress cutting off terror funds cited.** The U.S. has made progress in the last five years in trying to shut down avenues for terrorists to raise and move money but challenges remain, Bush administration officials told Congress Tuesday, September 12. Testifying before the Senate Banking Committee, Treasury Department official Daniel Glaser underscored the importance of the U.S. working closely with international allies to share information. The goal, he said, is to thwart terrorist financiers and improve coordination of this information among agencies. Glaser said authorities must stay ahead of terrorist financiers who not only try to use the traditional banking system to move money but also other methods, including cash couriers, trafficking of drugs, weapons and precious metals and jewels. Since the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. has designated a total of 460 people and entities as providing financial support for terrorists, Treasury officials said. Those actions mean that any bank accounts or financial assets found in the U.S. belonging to them are frozen and Americans are barred from doing business with them. Glaser and other Treasury officials testifying at the hearing also told lawmakers about the government's efforts to financially clamp down on Iran and North Korea.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/business/services/feeds/ap/2006/09/12/ap3010500.html>

10. *September 12, University of Delaware Daily* — **Bogus University of Delaware credit union e-mail advisory.** Information Technology and Public Safety officials at the University of Delaware advise all campus computer users not to respond to a phishing attempt that purports to be an official e-mail request from the U-Del Federal Credit Union asking for "ACCOUNT VERIFICATION." The bogus e-mail warns recipients that their names, Social Security Numbers and other personal nonpublic information must be sent in response to the e-mail within 48 hours because, "Unverified accounts will be blocked until further notice."

Source: <http://www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2007/sep/bogus091206.html>

11. *September 10, Turkish Press* — **Turkey to be tested on money laundering and financial support to terrorism.** Turkey will be under the scrutiny of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on money laundering and financial support to terrorism in Turkey. OECD's Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) will study Turkey. The FATF delegation will meet representatives from 37 institutions and decide on whether Turkey has the necessary laws to deal with money laundering and financial assistance to terrorism. After its meetings in Turkey, FATF will present a report to the General Assembly of the OECD. The FATF is an inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of national and international policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Source: <http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=141409>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *September 12, Associated Press* — **Items that prompted Los Angeles, New York**

evacuations found to be harmless. A grenade-shaped perfume bottle left at New York's main bus terminal and a suspicious package in a trash can in Los Angeles forced evacuations Tuesday, September 12, reflecting the heightened vigilance surrounding the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Neither item was found to be dangerous and the evacuation orders were lifted within two hours. But in both cases, bomb squads were called out and people were evacuated. In Los Angeles, a suspicious package was found about 6:40 a.m. PDT near a downtown federal building that houses government offices, including those for Citizenship and Immigrations Services and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said Officer Martha Garcia, a police spokesperson. In New York, one wing of the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan was evacuated after the bottle was spotted shortly before 11 a.m. EDT. The bomb squad determined that the "suspicious device" was a perfume bottle that had been left on top of an empty bag in a passenger area of NJ Transit, spokesperson Tony Ciavolella said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-09-12-portauthority_x.htm

13. *September 12, CanWest News Service (Canada)* — **Canada needs to rethink airport security, warns Israeli expert.** Canada's intense focus on trying to search every traveler for weapons has created too much reliance on airport screeners while creating potential security hazards in long lineups, says Rafi Sela, a former member of the Israel Defense Forces and a security consultant who works with Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion International Airport. Israeli airports would never allow large numbers of passengers to queue up for security checks because the lines themselves would be attractive targets to terrorists. The Israeli approach, Sela says, is to make the security check point just one stop in a broader security net that begins when passengers enter the airport terminal. Passengers checking in at Ben Gurion are greeted by an Israeli Airports Authority agent who looks directly into their eyes and asks seemingly benign questions intended to reveal signs of nervousness or stress. "They know what to look for. They know how suicide bombers act, how they look, how they walk," Sela said. Even staff at duty-free shops are trained to detect suspicious behavior. The Israelis are confident enough in their approach that, while other countries raced to ban liquids after the terrorism scare at London's Heathrow Airport last month, no such changes were made at Ben-Gurion.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=b6eb4101-ee1f-4bae-9439-2157789eee2f>

14. *September 11, Montreal Gazette (Canada)* — **Review ordered for Trudeau airport security.** Aéroports de Montréal said Monday, September 11, it will review security at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport after a Montreal newspaper reported that one of its journalists had gained access to seven restricted areas of the airport, including a kitchen where airline meals are prepared. The Journal de Montréal reporter entered the kitchen of Cara Operations Ltd., the catering company that makes in-flight meals for the airlines, by following employees into the building from a parking lot. When a Cara staff member saw the reporter in the locker room, he asked the journalist whether he was a new employee. The reporter said he was starting his first shift that day and the employee wished him well. While the airport has increased security for passengers following a terror plot to blow up planes flying from England to the United States, the reporter was able to easily access the tarmac and hangars where several companies keep private airplanes.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/story.html?id=363a4451-e11d-41ce-8236-88ec6cc3375f&k=77302>

15. *September 08, Associated Press* — **FAA cracks down on air controllers who nap on breaks.**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is cracking down on air traffic controllers who nap during break time, overruling standing policy in at least one control center. FAA workers at an Indianapolis control center — which handles flight traffic into airports in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and West Virginia — were notified that the agency was ending a policy that allowed workers to doze off during down time. They were later told disciplinary action could include suspension. National guidelines against napping are not new, but workers at local control towers and regional radar centers have had the ability to negotiate local rules on the issue. But the FAA action voids all local agreements, said FAA spokesperson Laura Brown. Brown said the Indianapolis center was the only one she was aware of where napping was permitted, but could not say others do not exist. Union representatives argue that during some late-night shifts, a controller could go two to three hours without needing to watch a single plane. They are allowed to go to a break room during this time to rest up for the intensive work. Each controller wears a pager so they can be contacted immediately if they are needed.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TRAVEL/09/08/air.controller.naps.ap/index.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

16. *September 12, Los Angeles Times* — **State shoots eight escaped elk near Yellowstone.** Idaho game officers shot and killed eight elk that they said had escaped from a private hunting reserve and posed a threat to the genetic purity of wild herds roaming near Yellowstone National Park on the Idaho–Wyoming border. The five cow and three young elk were the first game–farm elk killed under an emergency order issued Thursday, September 7, by Idaho Governor Jim Risch, authorizing state agents to destroy the estimated 75 to 160 farm–raised elk. Tissue and blood samples from the eight were being analyzed to determine if the animals carried any communicable diseases or were genetic hybrids.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-briefs12.3sep12.1.7288552.story?coll=la-news-a_section

17. *September 11, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Five South Carolina counties positive for rust; more Texas fields infected.** The number of counties positive for soybean rust in South Carolina doubled to 10 Monday, September 11, with the confirmation of infections in five more counties. And in Texas, eight more commercial fields in Liberty County are positive for rust. There are now 50 positive counties/parishes in the U.S. The new South Carolina counties are Anderson, Colleton, Dorchester, Horry and Lee.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=946>

18. *September 11, Associated Press* — **Idaho, Oregon onions under investigation for unapproved pesticides.** The agriculture departments in Oregon and Idaho are investigating a

rumor that some onion growers may have used an unapproved pesticide on their crops this year. The pesticide carbofuran is sold under the brand name Furadan by FMC Corporation. It's approved for potatoes, sugar beets and alfalfa, but not for onions. Wayne Hoffman with the Idaho Department of Agriculture says the rumors that some onion growers may have used the pesticide arose about two weeks ago. He says it's not clear if the pesticide would pose a health risk if used on onions. But state officials are testing onion crops just to make sure the pesticide wasn't used. The Idaho–Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association is also having onions tested for any Furadan exposure before the crops are shipped to market.

Source: http://www.ktvb.com/news/localnews/stories/ktvbn-sep1106-onion_pesticides.8d9f5217.html

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

19. *September 08, Mercury News (CA)* — Safety checks to begin for public fountains. Santa Clara, CA, County health officials said Thursday, September 7, that they have identified all the interactive fountains in the county for the first time and will take steps to monitor their water to prevent disease outbreaks. The action came after seven children were infected by a microscopic parasite while playing in a popular fountain at Plaza de Cesar Chavez in downtown San Jose. Tests on the water found *Cryptosporidium*, which causes nausea, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal distress. City officials immediately shut off the fountain and closed another, in McEnery Park, as a precautionary measure. Both work by running the same water through the jets over and over, increasing the chance that *Cryptosporidium* and other contaminants from human and animal feces will build up. Unlike traditional fountains, interactive fountains are designed for water play. The children were apparently infected while playing in the downtown fountain between July 22 and August 21. The county has never applied the same scrutiny to fountains as it does to public pools, hot tubs, spas and water parks, which are regularly monitored to make sure they're properly chlorinated.

Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/living/health/15468823.htm>

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Public Health Sector

20. *September 12, PLoS Medicine* — Empirical evidence for the effect of airline travel on inter–regional influenza spread in the U.S. Understanding the role of airline travel in large–scale influenza spread is especially important given the mounting threat of an influenza pandemic. Several recent simulation studies have concluded that air travel restrictions may have a significant impact on the course of a pandemic. Researchers assessed, with empirical data, the role of airline volume on the yearly inter–regional spread of influenza in the U.S. Researchers

measured rate of inter-regional spread and timing of influenza in the U.S. for nine seasons, from 1996 to 2005 using weekly influenza and pneumonia mortality from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was found that domestic airline travel volume in November predicts the rate of influenza spread. It was also found that international airline travel influences the timing of influenza mortality. The flight ban in the U.S. after the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, and the subsequent depression of the air travel market, provided a natural experiment for the evaluation of flight restrictions; the decrease in air travel was associated with a delayed and prolonged influenza season.

Source: <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlerv?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0030401>

21. *September 12, PLoS Medicine* — **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome: systematic review of treatment effects.** The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2002–2003 presented clinicians with a new, life-threatening disease for which they had no experience in treating and no research on the effectiveness of treatment options. The World Health Organization (WHO) requested a systematic review and comprehensive summary of treatments used for SARS-infected patients. Researchers conducted a systematic review of the published literature on ribavirin, corticosteroids, lopinavir and ritonavir (LPV/r), type I interferon (IFN), intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), and SARS convalescent plasma from both in vitro studies and in SARS patients. Clinical trial evidence of treatment for acute respiratory distress syndrome was also searched. In total, 54 SARS treatment studies, 15 in vitro studies, and three acute respiratory distress syndrome studies met the inclusion criteria. Within in vitro studies, ribavirin, lopinavir, and type I IFN showed inhibition of SARS-CoV in tissue culture. In SARS-infected patient reports on ribavirin, 26 studies were classified as inconclusive, and four showed possible harm. Seven studies of convalescent plasma or IVIG, three of IFN type I, and two of LPV/r were inconclusive. In 29 studies of steroid use, 25 were inconclusive and four were classified as causing possible harm. It was not possible to determine whether treatments benefited patients.

Source: <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlerv?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0030343>

22. *September 12, Reuters* — **South Africa seeks new drugs to fight tuberculosis.** South Africa's health department has promised to start distribution of a drug to help fight an extremely virulent strain of tuberculosis (TB) that has killed 52 people in the country. However, the government warned on Tuesday, September 12, there was no guarantee the drug will save lives as it may prove ineffective against the new superbug which threatens to exacerbate South Africa's HIV/AIDS crisis. On the advice of medical experts the health department has signed a deal with a local pharmaceutical company to buy Capreomycin and talks are under way with a second supplier to secure Para Amino Salicylic Acid. The two antibiotics increase the pool of treatment combinations available for those suffering from tuberculosis in South Africa, although the drugs have been widely available in other nations for years. In South Africa, the only test of whether the drugs can end or cure a highly drug resistant strain is to wait and see the response by patients, a process that could take months. Extremely drug resistant TB is a strain of tuberculosis that is resistant to at least two primary drugs and three or more of second line drugs.

TB information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/default.htm>

Source: <http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=health>

23. *September 11, National Institutes of Health* — **Live H5N1 avian flu virus vaccines show protection in animal studies.** When tested in mice and ferrets, experimental vaccines based on live, weakened versions of different strains of the H5N1 avian influenza virus were well-tolerated and protected the animals from a deadly infection with naturally occurring H5N1 flu viruses. The findings demonstrate the ability to create a vaccine based on one particular strain of the H5N1 flu virus that could potentially protect against different emerging H5N1 flu strains. The research team created three vaccines by combining modified proteins derived from virulent H5N1 flu viruses with proteins from an artificially weakened (attenuated) flu strain. The virulent H5N1 viruses were isolated from human cases in Hong Kong in 1997 and 2003, and Vietnam in 2004. The attenuated flu vaccine strain was lab-grown in progressively colder temperatures to prevent the resulting vaccine viruses from spreading beyond the relatively cool upper respiratory tract. Large quantities of the resulting cold-adapted viruses were grown in chicken eggs. The safety of the vaccine viruses was evaluated in chickens and mice. In chickens, the H5N1 vaccine viruses were not lethal, while each of the three strains of the “wild-type” (naturally occurring) H5N1 viruses were. Similarly, the vaccine viruses were not lethal in mice, but the 1997 and 2004 strains of the wild-type H5N1 viruses were.
- Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2006/niaid-11.htm>

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Government Sector

24. *September 12, Pocono Record (PA)* — **Pennsylvania county has enhanced courthouse security.** Security at the Monroe County Courthouse was increased after the 9/11 attacks. Currently, plans call for even further security at the county administration building, near the courthouse. Both buildings house a number of county offices; the courthouse also contains courtrooms and the chambers and offices of the six county judges. Only one entrance to the county courthouse is open to the general public. Courthouse employees have photo ID cards to access a separate entrance. Anyone who wants to enter the courthouse must pass through a security screening system, run by the county Sheriff's Department under the direction of Sheriff Todd Martin. Security officers are on duty throughout the day. The officers are part of the sheriff's department's court security division but are not deputies, Martin said. The security system includes a metal detector and an X-ray machine. Visitors are required to empty the contents of their pockets into plastic trays to pass through security screening. All bags are checked, as well. Those who set off the metal detector as they walk through — as happens often — are scanned with a wand by one of the security workers before they are allowed to enter.
- Source: <http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060912/NEWS/609120358/-1/NEWS>

25. *September 11, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-771: Executive Office for Immigration Review: Caseload Performance Reporting Needs Improvement (Report).** Within the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), the

Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ) is responsible for managing the 53 immigration courts located throughout the United States where over 200 immigration judges adjudicate individual cases involving alleged immigration law violations. This report addresses: (1) in recent years, what has been the trend in immigration courts' caseload; (2) how does OCIJ assign and manage the immigration court caseload; and (3) how does EOIR/OCIJ evaluate the immigration courts' performance? To address these issues, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) interviewed EOIR officials; reviewed information on caseload trends, caseload management, and court evaluations; and analyzed caseload data, case completion goal data, and OCIJ court evaluation reports. To more accurately and consistently reflect immigration courts' progress in the timely adjudication of immigration cases, GAO recommends that the Director of EOIR maintain appropriate documentation to demonstrate the accuracy of case completion goal reports; and clearly state what cases are being counted in the reports. EOIR agreed with GAO's recommendations and provided technical comments, which were included as appropriate.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06771high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-771>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *September 12, Federal Emergency Management Agency — Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.* Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: At 5:00 am EDT, the center of Hurricane Florence was located about 825 miles east of Norfolk, VA. Florence is moving toward the northeast near 20 mph. A turn towards the north-northeast with an increase in forward speed is forecast during the next 24 hours. Maximum sustained winds are near 75 mph, with higher gusts. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 60 miles and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 290 miles. Based on the current warning Florence poses no threat to the U.S. but a Hurricane Warning is in effect for Bermuda and large ocean swells and dangerous surf conditions are forecast to affect the East Coast of the U.S.

To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat091206.shtm>

27. *September 09, Springfield News-Leader (MO) — Mock chemical threat tests responders at Fort Leonard Wood.* A training exercise Thursday, September 7 at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri involved a disgruntled lab technician carrying a stolen vial of chemical nerve agent who sped past the civilian gate guards and eventually took a hostage before being killed by a sniper. The mock security threat posed in the Chemical Accident/Incident Response and Assistance exercise was designed to "stress-test" Fort Leonard Wood's military and civilian personnel and their ability to respond to internal and external threats, said Colonel Leslie Smith, commander of the 3rd Chemical Brigade. About two-dozen post officials monitored the action from the Emergency Operations Center at the installation's headquarters. The center, staffed by representatives from a variety of disciplines and departments, is activated during any real-life threat or disaster. Despite a few hiccups Thursday — such as a communications line that broke as soldiers attempted to roll a remote cable phone to the hostage-taker — Smith deemed the most recent exercise a success.

Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/200609>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

28. *September 12, IDG News Service* — **New specification targets mobile phone security.** Efforts to establish security standards for mobile devices were boosted Tuesday, September 12, with the release of the Mobile Trusted Module specification. The specification offers a set of standards for mobile phone manufacturers and software developers to store data securely in mobile devices. The standards, issued by the Trusted Computing Group industry association, have been years in development. They are backed by numerous companies.
For further detail: <https://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/groups/mobile>
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/09/12/HNmobilephonesecurity_1.html
29. *September 11, Security Focus* — **Linux kernel ULE packet handling remote denial-of-service vulnerability.** The Linux kernel is susceptible to a remote denial-of-service vulnerability. This issue is triggered when the kernel handles a specially crafted ULE packet. This issue allows remote attackers to trigger a denial-of-service for legitimate users. Kernel version 2.6.17.8 is reported to be vulnerable to this issue. Other versions may be affected as well.
Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19939/references>
30. *September 11, eWeek* — **McAfee: Malware hides behind legitimate companies.** Individuals responsible for spreading nefarious adware and spyware programs are increasingly using legitimate Websites to deliver their work to unsuspecting users, according to new research published by McAfee. According to a report published by the anti-virus software maker on Monday, September 11, adware and spyware brokers are more actively using the affiliate advertising programs offered by many Websites to hide their code, leaving users exposed to unseen threats ultimately distributed by innocent companies. McAfee said the use of so-called online front companies, or Websites made to appear as if they represent legitimate enterprises that have actually been built specifically to dispense malicious programs, is also on the rise among malware code writers. Since 2003, McAfee said, it has watched the number of individual adware strains rise by over 1,000 percent, with a sharp increase during the last six months. Many times the attacks involve the use of free software programs. One of the emerging threats highlighted in the report is the growing use of attacks that combine malware rootkits with bot networks, allowing code writers to hide their programs on users' computers for longer periods of time before they are discovered.
McAfee report: http://www.mcafee.com/us/local_content/white_papers/threat_center/wp_adware.pdf
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2014452.00.asp>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports

1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 19129 (——), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 445 (microsoft-ds), 24843 (——), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 139 (netbios-ssn), 113 (auth)

Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

31. *September 12, CNN* — U.S. Embassy attacked in Syria. Syrian security forces killed four attackers Tuesday, September 12, outside the U.S. Embassy in Damascus after a car exploded near the walls of the American compound, the Syrian Information Ministry said. One Syrian security guard protecting the embassy was killed in the attack, Syria's state-run news agency SANA reported. Syrian authorities wounded and arrested another suspected attacker, the ministry said. In addition to the attacker, 13 others were wounded, including an embassy policeman, security worker and 11 civilians, among them two Iraqis and a Chinese, according to SANA. The Syrian Information Ministry said none of the embassy staff was wounded and the building was not damaged. The armed attackers apparently tried to storm the embassy with hand grenades and machine guns after detonating a car bomb near the compound walls, according to the ministry and the state-run news agency. Syrian authorities found and dismantled another car rigged with explosives, including some bombs made with propane gas tanks.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/meast/09/12/syria.embassy/index.html>

32. *September 12, CNN* — Seven reportedly killed in explosion in Turkey's Kurdish region. Seven people were killed and 17 injured Tuesday evening, September 12, in an explosion in the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir, according to the press office of the city's governor. Three of those injured are seriously hurt, the press office said. There has been no claim of responsibility for the blast. Authorities are looking at the possibility it could have been a bomb left in a package. Diyarbakir, a city of more than a half million people on the Tigris River, is the second largest city in the heavily Kurdish region. Bomb attacks in Turkey in recent weeks have killed a total of 12 people and wounded dozens. The region is home to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, known as PKK, which has waged a 22-year war against Turkey in which more than 37,000 people have died, mainly Kurds. Turkey and the United States consider the PKK a terrorist group.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/09/12/turkey.blast/index.html>

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